

DISTRICT NEWS

NY gets greener: Marines land for 2nd Marine Corps Day

CPL. BETH ZIMMERMAN
NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEW YORK — More than 200 feature movies containing scenes in New York’s Central Park have been released since 1908, making it the most filmed public park in the world. On May 29, Marines and New Yorkers filled Central Park’s Rumsey Playfield for the 2nd Marine Corps Day in Central Park during Fleet Week 2004.

Marines interacted with New York natives, veterans, and future Marines during the sunny day in Manhattan’s 843-acre historic park. They also provided weapons displays and more insight into the Corps with job-related demonstrations.

“The dog demo really stood out in my mind,” said 19-year-old Kate McGuire from the Bronx. “I saw the dog when we walked in, and I was a little intimidated by it.”

Sergeant Joe Evans and his 5-year-old canine partner, Staff Sgt. Barro, make up a Patrol and Explosives Detector Dog Team from Camp Lejeune, N.C. The pair performed Marine Corps canine demonstrations for audiences at Marine Day. Evans and Barro demonstrated the unique ways they have of com-

municating. They also demonstrated that, like any other Marine, Barro is disciplined, and he responds with immediate attention to Evans’ orders.

“I felt a little less intimidated by the dog because I knew it was under control,” said Kate. Her twin sister agreed.

“It’s good to see that they train them well enough to do as much as they do,” said Rachel McGuire. “I thought he did a really good job showing that it’s not so intimidating all the time,” said Kate. “But if it needs to be intimidating, it can.”

Evans wanted the audience to understand the unusual relationship the canine trainer and animal share.

“I love getting out there and letting people know what we do with our dogs,” said Evans. “It’s a safety thing. People don’t know how to act around our dogs. The more people I can tell about it, the better.

It gives a different view of the Marine Corps,” Evans added. “It’s definitely true professionalism. Our job is our job.”

Another Marine Corps demonstration -- martial arts -- provided an aspect of the Corps many

people may already associate with Marines.

“We did a series of movements from the martial arts program, from tan to black belt, just to show the public what Marines are learning today,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Winnie, Martial Arts Trainer and 1st-degree Black Belt from Camp Lejeune. “It shows them we’re continuously training, keeping vigilant, and we can handle anything that happens.”

Kate McGuire was glad to see Marines perform martial arts up close. “At first, it was also pretty intimidating to see a bunch of Marines going at it,” she said. “But it shows us this is what they do, and they’re doing a good job defending us.”

Other Marines participating in the day’s events appreciated the value of the public demonstrations. Pfc. James McMahon, Camp Lejeune, said the martial arts demonstration motivated him.

“People see that there are different levels of force,” he said. “It shows (the public) the level of dedication to the overall mission Marines have.”

Marines who spent the day at Central Park also met people they would not normally



Cpl. Clinton Firstbrook
Corporal Brandon Malkowsky, a radio operator from Camp Lejeune, explains the capabilities of the M240-G machine gun during Marine Corps Day in Central Park. Held in the park’s Rumsey Playfield, this is the second time Marine Corps Day in Central Park has taken place during the annual Fleet Week celebration in New York City.

encounter. “It was great interacting with the community,” said Pfc. William McMonigle, barracks guard, Marine Barracks Washington. “It’s definitely something we don’t get to do in the barracks all the time.”

Mingling Marines and New

Yorkers realized they were not that different from each other.

“Most people that I talked to would stop for a quick conversation,” said McMonigle, a Queens native. “Then I’d say I’m from New York, and they’d get happier, cause they see

someone from their hometown who’s actually out there representing.”

“It’s nice to see that the people [of New York] know you’re there, and they’re happy to see you,” said McMahon. “It reaffirms our dedication to what we’re doing.”